Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-16 are now pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 13 and 15 have been amended, claims 14 and 16 have been canceled, and new claims 22-24 have been added. Following entry of this amendment claims 13, 15, and 17-24 will be pending in the application.

In the Office Action, claims 14 and 16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this regard, claims 13 and 15 have been amended herein to include all of the recitations of claims 14 and 16, respectively. Claims 14 and 16 have been cancelled herein. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 13 and 15 are in condition for immediate allowance.
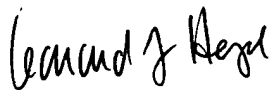
Claims 17-21 were allowed in the Office Action. By way of the foregoing amendment, the applicants have added new dependent claims 22-24. These new dependent claims depend from allowed independent claims 13, 15, and 17, respectively. Accordingly, in view of the previous indication of allowability of claims 17-21 and the foregoing amendment of claims 13 and 15, the applicants submit that new claims 22-24 are also in condition for immediate allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 13, 15, and 17-24 are in condition for immediate allowance. Allowance of these claims at an early date is solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicants' undersigned attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

HOPE BALDAUFF HARTMAN, LLC

Date: May 4, 2006

Leonard J. Hope
Reg. No. 44,774

Hope Baldauff Hartman, LLC
P.O. Box 2825
Atlanta, Georgia 30301
Telephone: 404.522.1100

53377
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE